



A Publication  
of the

# TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN



February 2013

## Violence Against Women Hearing Series Comes to Columbia on March 18

Violent crimes like domestic abuse, sexual assault and human sex trafficking know no geographic or social boundary, and there has been little study about their cost to local victims and communities. For these reasons, the Tennessee Economic Council on Women will be continuing its statewide hearing tour on the subject with a stop in Columbia, Tennessee on March 18.

The hearing will be hosted by Columbia State Community College and chaired by Columbia's president, Dr. Janet Smith, who is also a recent addition to the Council. "Columbia State is proud to be the host for the hearing on Violence Against Women in South Central Tennessee sponsored by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women," says Dr. Smith. "As with the 2012 study on the Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, completed by the

Council, the 2013 study on Violence Against Women will be important to understanding the challenges that we as a community and state need to address for a healthier state. Reducing violence in any form improves our lives and livelihood as individuals and as a state."

TECW will hold a public hearing in each of Tennessee's nine development districts before producing its report in October 2013. "The 2013 Violence Against Women study is distinct research that reveals the economic impact of domestic violence in Tennessee that costs Tennesseans millions of dollars every year" said Yvonne Wood, Chair of the TECW.

More information about this or other hearings can be found in this newsletter, by contacting the TECW, or by following us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TNECW](http://www.facebook.com/TNECW).



Columbia State  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### V.A.W. HEARING DETAILS

CHAIR: Dr. Janet Smith  
President

DATE: March 18, 2013

TIME: 8:30 AM—1:30 PM

#### LOCATION:

Columbia State Community College  
Waymon L. Hickman Building, Rm. 123  
1665 Hampshire Pike  
Columbia, Tennessee 38401

RSVP: [qramsey@columbiastate.edu](mailto:qramsey@columbiastate.edu)

THIS HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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### Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks



Dear Colleagues,

The Council's work has been moving forward at a fever pitch in February!

Just this week, the Senate Government Operations Committee approved legislation that will continue the operations of the Council for the next two years and reaffirms the legislature's support of our work.

Meanwhile, the Council has continued to add dates and locations to its statewide hearing series on Violence Against Women. Following the success of our inaugural event in Chattanooga, six more hearings have been scheduled across Tennessee, and two more are in the works.

Members of the Council will also be participating in a number of upcoming women's event, such as the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus' Fifth Annual Yellow Rose Luncheon on March 21, and the Coalition of 100 Black Women's Sister-to-Sister Conference on March 9.

Add to this, our distribution of the 2012 Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report to the legislature, and our ongoing efforts to enhance our workforce-related resources for women and it is clear that this agency is running on all cylinders. We invite you to learn more about our work in this publication!

Warmest regards,

Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## Women's Legislative Caucus Hears from TECW in Inaugural Meeting



*Left to Right: Senator Mae Beavers, Representative Courtney Rogers, Rep. Karen Camper, TECW Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Rep. Debra Moody, Rep. Mary Littleton, Rep. Dawn White, and Rep. Gloria Johnson.*

Members of the Tennessee Women's Legislative Caucus held their inaugural meeting earlier this month, and Representative Karen Camper (D-Memphis), who serves as the Caucus Chair, invited the Tennessee Economic Council on Women to share an update on the status of the agency and of women in the state.

Rep. Camper explained the plan for the Caucus, "My goal is to bring the women of the Tennessee General Assembly together in a non-partisan structure to discuss issues and find


solutions in a spirit of helping the state to grow."

There are 23 members of the women's caucus (7-Senate; 16-House), from throughout the state. Seven are new and 16 are returning legislators.

Rep. Susan Lynn (R-Mt. Juliet), said, "The friendships we women build help us to better understand each other, and they keep the lines of communication open so we can work on the many important issues that unite us as women."

Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Executive Director of the TECW, spoke to the group and discussed the program of work of the Council this year. Included in the program is a study on Violence Against Women, which seeks to quantify the economic impact of crimes like domestic violence and human trafficking. The Council is holding hearings in the nine development districts across the state to gather local data directly. The agency has also begun its Women & Work Project, which will provide online resources to women looking for new avenues to become involved in Tennessee's ever-changing workforce.

"It was an honor to speak to the Legislative Women's Caucus and share the significant work we are doing at the Economic Council. We want them to know and to be involved in any way possible," said Qualls-Brooks. The Caucus members were very interested in this work and wanted follow-up information to be well-informed.

The Tennessee Women's Legislative Caucus plays a significant role in the legislative process with specific emphasis on women, children and families as well as the economy as a whole. 


### Women's Groups Hold Events in March

March is Women's History Month and there are a variety of activities focusing on women and women's issues on the horizon.

The Tennessee Women's Political Caucus will hold its Fifth Annual Yellow Rose Luncheon, on March 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the offices of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, LLP, in Nashville, located on Union Street.


In addition to honoring former state Senator Beverly Marrero, the TWPC will recognize the

Tennessee Economic Council on Women on its 15th year anniversary. The TECW was established by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1998.


Additionally, The Coalition of 100 Black Women will hold its Sister-to-Sister Conference on March 9, in Nashville at the Hutton Hotel and its 2013 Legislative Days on the Hill, March 11 & 12. And, the Women's Political Collaborative will hold its Day on the Hill, March 20. 

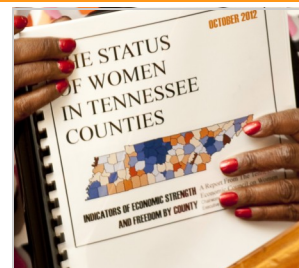
### ATHENA Award Nominee: WECF's Susan Huggins



The TECW would like to take the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Women's Economic Council Foundation member, Susan Huggins on being nominated for the 2013 Nashville ATHENA award. There are 25 nominees this year from over 20 different women's organizations in the region. The award will be presented to the winner by Tennessee House Speaker Beth Harwell on March 21 at the Schermerhorn Center. 

### Legislature Receives County Status Reports

Following its public release and presentation at the TECW's Economic Summit for Women in October 2012, the "Status of Women in Tennessee Counties" report has been formally printed and its distribution to the General Assembly has begun this month. 



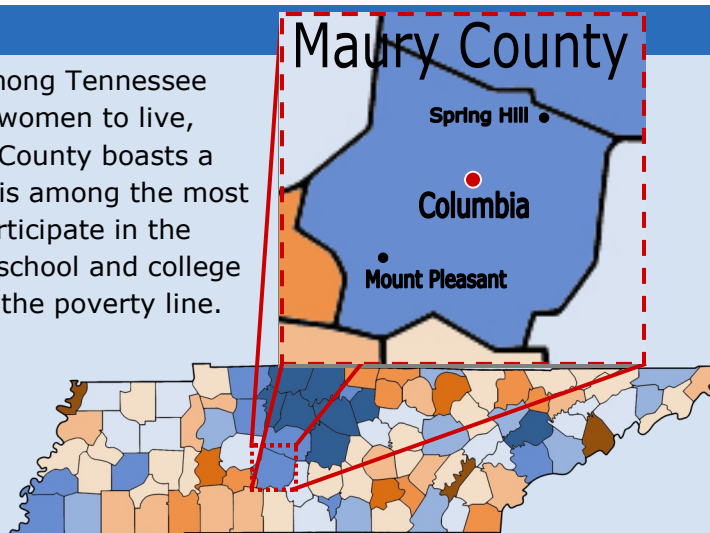


## Women in Tennessee Snapshot: Maury County

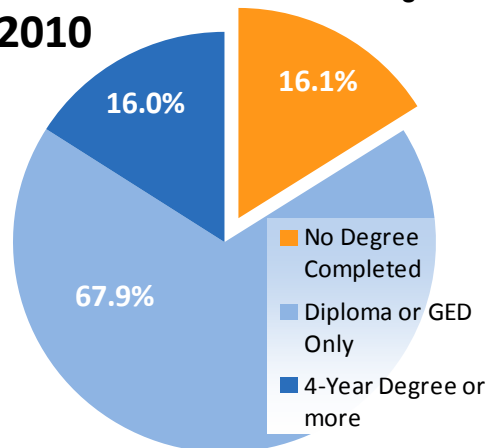
In light of the TECW's upcoming hearing on Violence Against Women in Columbia, Tennessee, here is a summary of how Maury County has performed over the last decade with regard to the economic potential and stability of women. More information like this can be found about all 95 of Tennessee's counties in the 2012 Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report, available at [www.tennesseeewomen.org](http://www.tennesseeewomen.org).

### OVERVIEW

Ranked 15th overall among Tennessee counties as a place for women to live, work and learn, Maury County boasts a female population that is among the most likely in the state to participate in the workforce, hold a high school and college degree, and live above the poverty line. Local women are also less likely than most of their peers state-wide to lack health insurance or be unemployed. Maury's rank of 15th in 2010 reveals a pattern of growth for women since the year 2000, when it came in at 20th in the TECW's first county assessment.



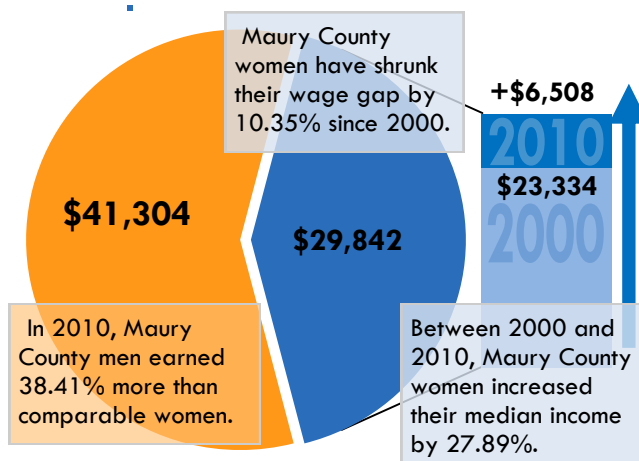
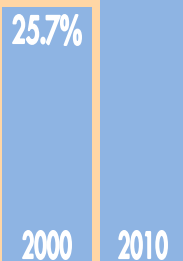
### Educational Attainment Above Age 25 2010



Despite rising incomes, local women still earn just 72.25 percent of Maury County men at the median. This factor, coupled with relatively high drop out rates and a growing population of single mothers in poverty, presents an important public issue for local leaders and citizens to address.

### Women At Work

**Business Management**  
The incidence of female managers in Maury County increased significantly between 2000 and 2010, from 25.7% to 37.9%. Female business ownership also grew, but at a much slower pace.



### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010

## Upcoming 2013 Events

**March 18, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Columbia State  
Community College**

**March 20, 2013**

**Women's Political Collabora-  
tive, Day on the Hill - Nashville**

**March 21, 2013**

**Tennessee Women's Political  
Caucus Luncheon - Nashville**

**May 3, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Crossville City Hall**

**May 10, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Memphis, TN**

**Revised: May 16, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Belmont University**

**May 17, 2013**

**Spring Quarterly Meeting  
Nashville**

**June 14, 2013**

**East Tennessee Women's  
Leadership Conference  
Knoxville**

**June 20, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Trenton, TN**

**August 16, 2013**

**TECW Annual Retreat**

**August 17, 2013**

**Summer Quarterly Meeting**

**Revised: October 27-28, 2013**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Summit  
for Women-Nashville**

# 2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEARINGS



TENNESSEE ECONOMIC  
COUNCIL ON WOMEN



The Tennessee Economic Council on Women will convene nine public hearings in 2013 to explore *the economic impact of violence against women in Tennessee*. From law enforcement and court costs to healthcare, social services and business concerns, violence perpetrated against women is costing Tennesseans millions, and the Council's efforts will better define that expense for use by leaders, policymakers, and advocates statewide.

## ATTEND A HEARING NEAR YOU!

### Columbia State Community College

March 18, 2013

Columbia, Tennessee: Dr. Janet Smith, Chair

### Crossville City Hall

May 3rd, 2013

Crossville, Tennessee: Jane Powers, Chair

### Memphis, Tennessee

May 10, 2013

Location TBA: Deborah Clubb & Kristi Stanley, Co-Chairs

### Belmont University

**\*New Date\* May 16, 2013**

Nashville, Tennessee: Yvonne Wood & Mimi Barnard, Co-Chairs

### University of Tennessee Extension

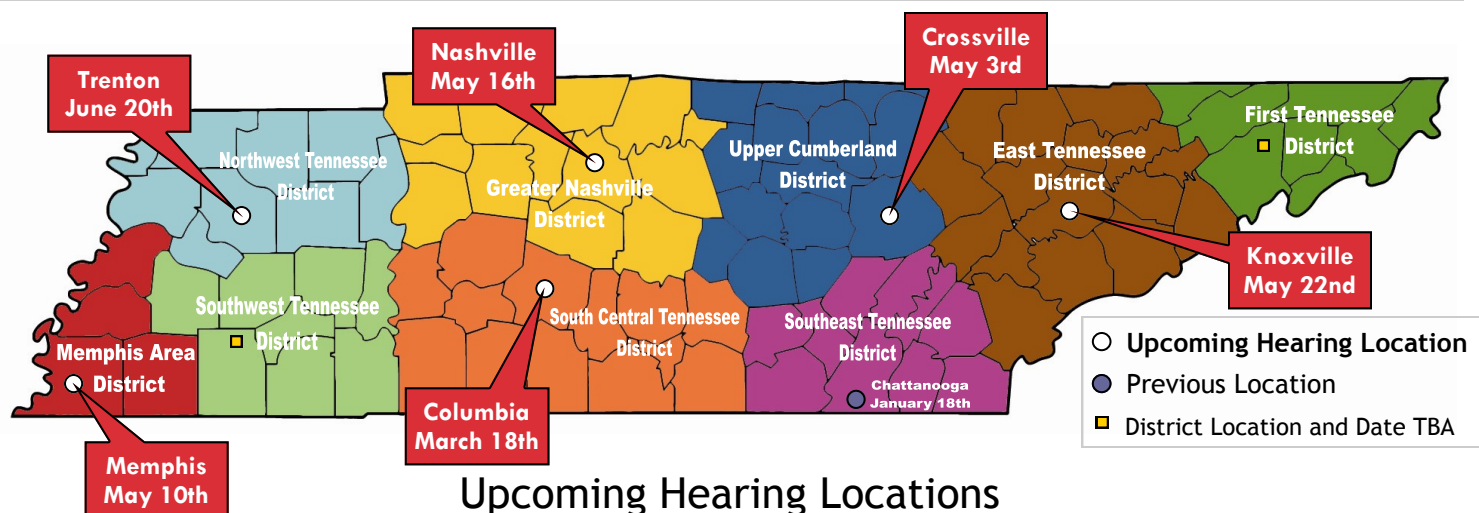
May 22, 2013

Knoxville, Tennessee: Dena Wise, Ann Ayers, Pat Pierce & Wendy Pitts Reeves, Co-Chairs

### Trenton, Tennessee

June 20, 2013

Location TBA: Carol Danehower & Shawn Francisco, Co-Chairs



## Upcoming Hearing Locations

- Dates Coming Soon -

First Tennessee Development District  
Elliott Moore, Chair

Southwest Tennessee Development District  
Kathleen Walker, Chair

TECW hearings are open to the public. If you would like to attend or participate in future hearings, please contact the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at 615-253-4266 or [info.ecw@tn.gov](mailto:info.ecw@tn.gov). Information current as of February 25, 2013.



A Study by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women  
Snodgrass Tower | 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243 | (615) 253-4266  
[www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)